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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a declaration of the European Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community on former Yugoslavia, issued at Lisbon on 25 June 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 69 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Declaration of the European Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community on former Yugoslavia, issued at Lisbon on 25 June 1992

The European Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community strongly condemns the continuing violence which has ravaged the territory of the former Yugoslavia for over a year, resulting in an appalling loss of life and a desperate humanitarian situation, in particular in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although all parties have contributed, in their own way, to the present state of affairs, by far the greatest share of responsibility falls on the Serbian leadership and the Yugoslav army controlled by it. The European Economic Community and its member States stress again the need for full application of the sanctions stipulated by the United Nations Security Council.

The European Council deplores in particular that the reopening of Sarajevo airport for humanitarian purposes, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 758 (1992), has not been achieved. Further measures are therefore required. The European Economic Community and its member States will propose that the legally competent body, the United Nations Security Council, take, without delay, all necessary measures for the reopening of the airport and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to Sarajevo and neighbouring areas. The Community and its member States are ready to cooperate in that as far as is legally and practically possible for them to do so. This may include airborne humanitarian aid. While giving priority to peaceful means, the European Council does not exclude support for the use of military means by the United Nations to achieve these humanitarian objectives.

Noting the declaration by the Council of Ministers of the Western European Union of 19 June 1992, the European Council welcomes the study being carried out by this organization of possible means in support of actions undertaken in the framework of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The European Council is gravely preoccupied by the increasingly intolerable situation of the hundreds of thousands of displaced persons in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. In spite of actions already undertaken, in particular by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the European Council considers that further important financial help will be needed. The Commission will coordinate these efforts with the other Group of 24 countries.

With regard to Kosovo, the European Council expects the Serbian leadership to refrain from further repression and to engage in serious dialogue with representatives of this territory. The European Council reminds the inhabitants of Kosovo that their legitimate quest for autonomy should be dealt with in the framework of the Conference in Yugoslavia. It stresses the need to dispatch immediately observers to Kosovo as well as to neighbouring

countries in order to prevent the use of violence and with a view to contributing to the restoration of confidence. The Community and its member States call upon the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to take the necessary steps to that effect and stand ready, as far as they are concerned, to take part in such a mission.

The European Council reiterates the position taken by the European Economic Community and its member States at Guimarães on the request of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to be recognized as an independent State. It expresses its readiness to recognize that Republic within its existing borders according to their declaration on 16 December 1991 under a name which does not include the term Macedonia. It furthermore considers the borders of this Republic as inviolable and guaranteed in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of Paris.

The European Economic Community and its member States will not recognize the new federal entity comprising Serbia and Montenegro as the successor State of the former Yugoslavia until the moment a decision has been taken by the qualified international institutions. They have decided to demand the suspension of the delegation of Yugoslavia in the proceedings at the CSCE and other international forums and organizations. The European Council states its determination to help the peoples of former Yugoslavia in their quest for a peaceful future in Europe and reiterates that the EC Conference on Yugoslavia, chaired by Lord Carrington, is the only forum capable of ensuring a durable and equitable solution to the outstanding problems of the former Yugoslavia, including constitutional arrangements for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The European Council urges all parties involved in the peace process to participate fully and without further delay in the negotiations sponsored by the Conference.